

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AEC-11 AECE-00

ARA-16 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04

NSF-04 SCI-06 FEAE-00 ACDA-19 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED INTERIM LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEABED MINING AND
200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE

REF: STATE 193107

THERE FOLLOWS POST ASSESSMENT REQUESTED PARA 3 REFTTEL:

1. FROM OAU PERSPECTIVE, MEMBER STATES' KEY PROBLEM AT CARACAS
LOS CONFERENCE WAS TO OBTAIN DC RECOGNITION FOR LEGITIMACY LDC
INTEREST IN PREEMINENT ECONOMIC ZONE RIGHTS IN RETURN FOR
CONCESSION TO DC MARITIME POWERS ON NARROW TERRITORIAL SEA AND
FREE PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS.

2. ETHIOPIAN PERSPECTIVE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. ETHIOPIA IS LITTORAL
AS WELL AS STRAITS STATE. ETHIOPIA'S LITTORAL, HOWEVER, AT WIDEST
POINT ONLY APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES FROM ARABIAN SHORES.

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ACCORDINGLY, WITH REGARD TO DEEP SEABED RESOURCES AND FISHERIES,

ETHIOPIA COMPELLED IN ANY EVENT COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH OTHER RED SEA RIPARIANS DUE EXIGUITY OF BASIN. ON STRAITS, ETHIOPIAN INTEREST CENTERS ON FREE PASSAGE, AS ANY OTHER REGIME CAPABLE OF ENDANGERING HER TRADE - - BOTH ASSAB AND MASSAWA PORTS BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE RED SEA BASIN. CONSONANCE OF US AND ETHIOPIAN STRAITS INTEREST, HOWEVER, DILUTED SOMEWHAT BY REQUIREMENT UPON ETHIOPIAN POLICY NOT RPT NOT OVERLY TO DISTEND AFRICAN SOLIDARITY AND STAY AT LEAST WITHIN REACH OF OAU LOS POSITIONS.

3. CARACAS LOS TRAFFIC SUGGESTS THAT LDC'S QUITE AWARE OF US DRAFT LEGISLATION AND BELIEVE ITS PASSAGE, OR EVEN PROSPECT OF PASSAGE, LIKELY MOVE US POSITION CLOSER TO THEIRS ON ECONOMIC ZONE. IF SO, THEY SHOULD HOLD TO OR STIFFEN PRICE TO BE EXACTED FROM DC'S ON TERRITORIAL SEA/FREE PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS AS LEGISLATION BEGINS TO BE DEBATED ON CAPITOL HILL. IN OTHER WORDS, TO EXTENT TERRITORIAL SEA/FREE TRANSIT VERSUS ECONOMIC ZONE RIGHTS BARGAIN NOT COMPLETELY TIED DOWN IN CARACAS, DISCUSSION OF BILLS DESCRIBED REFTEL IN CONGRESS COULD MAKE BARGAIN MORE DIFFICULT OF ACHIEVEMENT AND RAISE COSTS TO DC'S.

4. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AND, NOTWITHSTANDING CONSONANCE OF US AND ETHIOPIAN STRAITS INTERESTS REFERRED TO ABOVE, WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT EXPECT ETHIOPIAN LOBBYING EFFORTS GREATLY TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF TREND PROJECTED ABOVE.
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